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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
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10/578,011

05/03/2006

Samir Mezouari

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22913

7590

12/31/2008

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EXAMINER

MAHONEY, CHRISTOPHER E

ART UNIT

PAPER NUMBER

2862

MAIL DATE

DELIVERY MODE

12/31/2008

PAPER

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

Office Action Summary	Application No. 10/578,011	Applicant(s) MEZOUARI ET AL.	
	Examiner Christopher E. Mahoney	Art Unit 2862	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☐ Responsive to communication(s) filed on ____.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 17-29 is/are pending in the application.
4a) Of the above claim(s) ____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☒ Claim(s) 17-27 is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 28 and 29 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) ____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) ____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 03 May 2006 is/are: a) ☒ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. ____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. ____. |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application |
| 3) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date <u>8/18/06</u> . | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: ____. |

Art Unit: 2862

DETAILED ACTION

Priority

Receipt is acknowledged of papers submitted under 35 U.S.C. 119(a)-(d), which papers have been placed of record in the file.

Claim Objections

Claim 17 is objected to because of the following informalities: The examiner believes the recited angle ranges in claim 17 refers to both the first full internal angle and the second internal angle (rather than the first full internal angle and the second internal angle respectively). Confirmation of this is respectfully requested. If the angle ranges do not refer to both full internal angles, the claim should be amended to reflect as such. Appropriate correction is required.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

Claims 28-29 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Suzuki (U.S. Pat. No. 7116476). Embodiment 2 of Suzuki teaches an optical panel 6 for displaying projected light incident upon the optical panel, the optical panel comprising a front face 9 and a rear face, the rear face having a plurality of substantially periodic light-deflecting elements 8A disposed

Art Unit: 2862

thereon, each respective element comprising: a transparent first facet 8B for transmitting light incident thereupon; an internally reflecting second facet 8C for effecting internal reflection of the transmitted light within the element, the second facet being adjoined to the first facet; and a further section 3A disposed between the second facet of the element and a first facet of an adjacent element, wherein at least one of the first and second facets of the element is convexly curved 8B so that a function of the first and second facets acting in concert includes bringing the transmitted and reflected light to a focus at or near to a plane defined by the front face of the panel. The applicant is directed to review figure 10. A projector 111-115 is arranged to project a video image onto the rear face of the optical panel for providing a viewable image downstream of the front face of the optical panel. Suzuki does not teach in embodiment 2 that the optical panel further comprises black stripes disposed on at least one face of the optical panel without substantially blocking a path of the light through the panel. In figures 40-41 Suzuki teaches that it was known to further comprise black stripes disposed on at least one face of the optical panel without substantially blocking a path of the light through the panel. It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to utilize the black stripes for the purpose of reducing stray and ambient light and therefore increasing picture quality.

Allowable Subject Matter

Claims 17-27 are allowed. The prior art does not teach an optical panel comprising, in combination with the additionally recited elements, a transparent first facet for transmitting light incident thereupon;
an internally reflecting second facet for effecting internal reflection of the transmitted light

Art Unit: 2862

within the element;

at least one intermediate facet disposed between and adjoining the first and second facets at first and second junctions respectively; and

a further section disposed between the second facet of the element and a first facet of an adjacent element, wherein a first full internal angle within the element at the first junction and a second full internal angle within the element at the second junction are at least 90 degrees and less than 180 degrees.

Conclusion

The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure. For example, Lee (U.S. Pat. No. 5768014) also teaches a light absorbing layer on the exit surface of an optical sheet.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Christopher E. Mahoney whose telephone number is (571) 272-2122. The examiner can normally be reached on 8:30AM-5PM, Monday-Thursday.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Patrick Assouad can be reached on (571) 272-2210. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Art Unit: 2862

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

/Christopher E Mahoney/
Primary Examiner, Art Unit 2862